

business. When the proposed Glenormiston Agricultural College becomes a reality, the opportunities that will be available must, in the long term, be of great benefit to Victoria.

As the youngest member of this House, who by normal life expectancy should outlive other members, and who, therefore, must live longer with the effects of present-day Governments, I view with concern the increasing promises made by all parties at election time. Any one of these promises that is carried into effect must cost the taxpayer something; therefore, it is vital that those members of the community who could be described as producers should not, by excessive taxation or restrictions, lose their incentive to produce the optimum. Whilst care must be taken to protect the less fortunate in the community and adequately educate the future generation, everything possible must be done to encourage and foster people who are prepared to make above-average efforts and greater personal sacrifices. Those people contribute immense benefit to the well-being of the community. If the present trend continues, before the end of this century the incentive will be to achieve the minimum and not the maximum of output. By its foresight, wisdom and choice of government, the community must guard itself against any such situations.

As society becomes more affluent, the demand for services will increase. If the competition for labour between the service industries and the industries producing goods forces the price of labour too high, the cost structure of the goods-producing industries will rise. Therefore, there must be a constant examination of this situation to prevent the goods-producing industries from being priced out of the export markets.

Since settlement, Victoria has enjoyed amazing growth. The Forty-fourth Parliament should do nothing to impede this growth; rather,

through intelligent, stable and enthusiastic government, it should make a positive contribution to this development. It is with great pleasure that I express loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., and thanks to His Excellency for his most gracious Speech.

Mrs. GOBLE (Mitcham).—I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity of seconding the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. It is an honour not only to me but also to the people of the electorate of Mitcham, whom I represent, and I believe that the women of Victoria will consider it a signal honour, as I am their sole representative in this Parliament. I am delighted to endorse the sentiments of appreciation to Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe, and, through him, of our loyalty and deep respect to our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II., so ably expressed by my colleague, the honorable member for Warrnambool.

I emphasize that I am not merely paying lip-service to the occupant of the Throne. During her reign, Her Majesty has set an example of devotion to duty and acceptance with courage of high responsibility that has never been surpassed in the history of the monarchy. She is an inspiration to all people who have undertaken onerous duties in other spheres, and I therefore pay her homage.

His Excellency referred to Victoria's potential development of power and industry. The future can be viewed with optimism when the spectacular developments that have taken place since the first session of the Forty-third Parliament are considered. Natural gas was discovered in February, 1965, and a year later the first flow of oil was recorded. When the Barracouta and Marlin fields come into production in the next two years, the BHP and Esso companies will have spent between \$100,000,000, and \$150,000,000 on

this project. Additional capital investment will be necessary as the markets expand, and a further expenditure will be involved in the field of exploration. The Bass basin and large areas of the offshore section of the Otway basin are being explored. The developing companies will sell natural gas to the distributing agencies at less than one-quarter of the present cost of production of gas, with considerable benefit to industrial and domestic users.

Natural gas has distinct advantages over town gas. It is lighter than air; it is safe to use; it is non-toxic; and it needs no further handling for reticulation to the premises of the present consumers. It is estimated that complete conversion of the metropolitan area to natural gas will take approximately two years, and that, during the change-over period, no consumer will be without gas for more than two days. The cost of conversion will be borne by the Gas and Fuel Corporation and other distributing companies. It is not an economic proposition to construct pipe-lines to all parts of Victoria, but as the demand in one area or along a route increases, it is planned gradually to expand the reticulation of natural gas.

Large quantities of liquid petroleum gas will be obtained from the Barracouta and Marlin fields; this will benefit consumers of bottled gas, particularly in country areas to where it is not considered practicable to extend the reticulation system.

Throughout the world the discovery of natural gas has resulted in the expansion of existing industries and the considerable development of new industries. It is expected that this pattern will be followed in Victoria; and it is unnecessary to stress the obvious advantages that will flow from such development. In particular the chemical and plastic industries make considerable use of natural gas, which contains a high content of liquid hydro-carbons which are the basis of the manufacture of many products.

Mrs. Goble.

In the past decade there has been an amazing pre-occupation with education throughout the world, and Victoria is playing its part in this direction. Although some adverse criticism of our education system has been expressed, a great deal has been achieved, and the Premier has given his word that education will continue to have top priority.

The Victoria Institute of Colleges was established in 1965 and steps have been taken to make it an autonomous body. Certain colleges which have been under the jurisdiction of the Education Department will be placed under the control of the Institute; colleges which have been council controlled will continue to operate in that way.

The training of teachers has been a matter of major concern. In addition to the steps that have already been taken to overcome the teacher shortage, the Government is committed to two projects for the training of secondary and technical teachers. Although an unprecedented number of young people are now undertaking secondary and tertiary education, with the plans that are in hand it seems likely that in the foreseeable future the staff shortage will be remedied. During the past seven years, there has been a steady decline in the pupil-teacher ratio.

I reiterate that I have great pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. I assure all members of the House that they will have my co-operation in any move that is in the best interests of the State, and that I shall endeavour at all times to serve the electors of Mitcham with zeal and sincerity.

On the motion of Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until next day.